

**Notice of 30-Day Opportunity to Comment**  
**Kitchen Creek Helitanker Base Project**  
**USDA Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest**  
**Descanso Ranger District**  
**San Diego County, California**

The Descanso Ranger District proposes to construct a Helitanker base in the Kitchen Creek area in eastern San Diego County. The purpose of the project is to improve the ability to fight wildfires in remote locations. The base would be capable of supporting two Type 1 heavy helicopters and would include two helipads, office space, a warehouse/storage facility, a fuel containment area, parking for 10 vehicles, and an aircraft hangar. The base would be in use primarily from June through November annually. The analysis area is approximately 11 acres in size. The base would be located approximately 0.6 miles north of the Cameron Fire Station, 1.0 miles north of Interstate 8, and 25 miles east of Alpine. The legal description is Section 3 of T 17 S, R 5 E. This proposal is consistent with the Cleveland NF land management plan.

The Draft Kitchen Creek Helitanker Base Environmental Assessment, dated January 2012, can be obtained online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/cleveland/landmanagement/projects>, or by contacting Stephen Fillmore, Forest Fuels Officer at (858)-673-6180 or via email at [sfillmore@fs.fed.us](mailto:sfillmore@fs.fed.us). Please put Kitchen Creek Helitanker Base Comment Period in the subject line.

Mailed comments should be sent to William Metz, Forest Supervisor, Cleveland National Forest, 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA, 92127. Hand-delivery of comments may be made at the above address on business days between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Comments may also be submitted to Stephen Fillmore, via telephone at (858) 673-6180, via email to [sfillmore@fs.fed.us](mailto:sfillmore@fs.fed.us), or via fax at (858) 673-6192. Email comments may be submitted in .doc, .rtf, .pdf, or .txt format to the above email address.

Comments must be received or postmarked by the end of the 30-day Public Comment Period for this project. The public comment period begins with publication of this notice in the San Diego *Union-Tribune*, which is the newspaper of record for the Descanso Ranger District.

To be eligible for appeal rights, persons who submit comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Names and addresses of persons making comments will become part of the public record. Only persons who provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposal during the scoping or comment periods will have appeal rights. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.

For additional information, contact Stephen Fillmore at (858) 673-6180.